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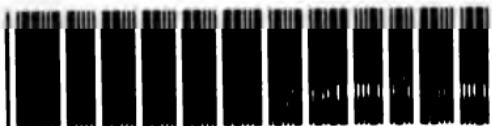
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A SUMMARY
OF THE
BIBLE HISTORY,
AND A
BRIEF NOTICE OF THE PROPHECIES
RELATING TO OUR SAVIOUR,
And his Miracles,
WITH SOME PARTICULARS OF HIS LIFE;
TO WHICH IS ADDED
A short Explanation of the Sacraments.

THE WHOLE IN THE FORM OF
A CATECHISM
For the use of the Junior Classes in
BLUNDELL'S SCHOOL, TIVERTON.

BY THE
REV. ANTHONY BOULTON, A. M.,
UNDER MASTER.

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SUMMARY

of

BIBLE HISTORY.

Question.

WHAT is the meaning of the word Scriptures ?

A. Writings.

Q. What is the meaning of the word Bible ?

A. Book.

Q. To what are these terms now exclusively applied ?

A. To those sacred compositions, which contain the revealed will of God.

Q. How is the Bible divided ?

A. Into two parts, the Old and New Testament.

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Q. What does the Old Testament consist of ?

A. Those sacred Books which were composed previously to the birth of our Saviour.

Q. By whom were they composed ?

A. By successive Prophets and inspired writers.

Q. In what language were they written ?

A. In Hebrew.

Q. How many books does the Old Testament contain ?

A. Thirty nine.

Q. How did the Jews divide these books ?

A. Into three classes, the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms.

Q. Of what did the Law consist ?

A. Of the first five Books; Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Q. By whom were they written ?

A. By Moses.

Q. What is the general name they are now known by ?

A. The Pentateuch.

Q. What is the meaning of Pentateuch?

A. It is derived from two Greek words, signifying five volumes.

Q. Of what did that part, which the Jews called the Prophets, consist?

A. Joshua, Judges, Ruth, the books of Samuel, of Kings, and of Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the twelve minor Prophets.

Q. Why were they called minor Prophets?

A. From the brevity of their works, not from any supposed inferiority to the other Prophets.

Q. Of what did the third class consist?

A. Of the four remaining books; the Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

Q. Why was this division called the Psalms?

A. From the name of the first book in it.

Q. Were these books written under the inspiration of the Divine Spirit?

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They have been universally considered by the Jews as so written.

Q. Where is the most decisive proof of the authenticity and inspiration of the Old Testament to be found?

A. In the New Testament.

Q. In what manner is this proved in the New Testament?

A. The Saviour of the World himself, in his last instructions to his Apostles before his Ascension, said "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me."

Q. How does this passage prove it?

A. Christ by adopting the common division of the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms, which comprehend all the Hebrew Scriptures, ratified the Canon of the Old Testament; and, by declaring these books contained Prophecies which must be fulfilled, established their Divine Inspiration.

Q. How did this establish their Divine Inspiration ?

A. Because God alone can enable men to foretell future events.

Q. Is there any other particular passage that proves this ?

A. Yes, Christ told the Jews " that they made the word of God of none effect through their traditions.

Q. How did this prove it ?

A. By calling the written rules the Jews had received for the conduct of their lives, "the word of God;" he declared the Hebrew scriptures proceeded from God.

Q. Why is the book of Genesis so called ?

A. From a Greek word signifying Generation, this Book giving an account of the creation of the world.

Q. Had God ever a beginning ?

A. No. God is from "everlasting to everlasting."

Q. In what time did God create the world, and all things therein ?

A. Six Days.

Q. On which day did he create Man ?

A. On the sixth day.

Q. Why was he called Adam ?

A. Because God formed him from the dust of the earth ; that word signifying earth or ground.

Q. Of what did God form Woman ?

A. Of one of Adam's ribs, which he took from him when he was asleep.

Q. What was the probable reason of this

A. To remind Husbands and Wives of their near relation, and the tender love which ought always to subsist between them.

Q. Why did Adam call her Eve ?

A. Because she was to be the Mother of all living ; that word signifying life.

Q. What did God do on the seventh day

A. He rested from his works.

Q. Why did God rest from his works on the seventh day ?

A. Because he had finished all he intended to create, not that the Creation wa

attended with labour and fatigue.

Q. In what state was Man created ?

A. Innocent and upright; with powers of understanding and will.

Q. Where was Adam placed ?

A. In the fruitful and pleasant Garden of Eden, with full enjoyment of all the delights around him ; with one only restriction, as a test of his obedience.

Q. What was the restriction ?

A. He was forbidden to touch the fruit of one tree.

Q. What was that tree called ?

A. The tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Q. What was to be the consequence of his touching the fruit of this Tree ?

A. Certain death.

Q. Did our first parents long continue in this state of happiness ?

A. No. It was soon interrupted by the malignity of Satan, or the evil Spirit, who was suffered to tempt Eve to disobey God.

Q. In what form did Satan tempt Eve ?

A. In the form of a Serpent.

Q. How did he tempt her ?

A. By exciting the hope, if she tasted the forbidden fruit, that it would increase their knowledge and exalt the dignity of their nature.

Q. What was the immediate consequence of this first violation of God's commands ?

A. The human constitution was debased and impaired, and a sinful and corrupt nature, subject to disease and death, was derived from Adam to all his posterity.

Q. Was man always to continue in this state ?

A. No; for we find that God at the same time that he pronounced sentence on Adam, was pleased to give an intimation of the redemption of Mankind.

Q. In what remarkable words was this intimation conveyed ?

A. "The Lord said unto the Serpent, I will put enmity between thee and the woman,

and between thy seed and her seed, it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Q. Who were the first sons of Adam and Eve?

A. Cain and Abel.

Q. What were their occupations?

A. Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain was a tiller of the ground.

Q. What were their characters?

A. Abel was a lover of righteousness, and obedient to his parents; Cain was obstinate and wicked.

How were the respective sacrifices of Cain and Abel received by God?

A. Abel's sacrifices were more acceptable to God than those of Cain.

Q. What followed from this?

A. Cain hated his brother Abel, and at last slew him.

Q. What was the consequence of this?

A. God pronounced judgment upon Cain.

Q. What was the judgment?

A. That he was to wander about as a fugitive and a vagabond, and always carry about with him the mark of his guilt.

Q. What should this teach us?

A. To guard against the first approaches of malice and hatred; lest they should hurry us into the most shocking crimes.

Q. How did God comfort Adam and Eve for the loss of Cain and Abel?

A. He gave them another Son called Seth.

Q. How did God distinguish Enoch, one of the descendants of Seth, for his Piety?

A. He was taken up into Heaven without suffering the pains of Death.

Q. Did the descendants of Seth continue to be distinguished for their piety?

A. No, in process of time, they also neglected the worship and service of God.

Q. How were they enticed from their duty?

A. They were allured by the beauty of the women who were of the race of Cain, and gave themselves up to the indulgence of sinful appetites.

Q. What was the consequence of this ?

A. That by degrees the human race was overspread with sin ; "all flesh corrupted its way upon the earth."

Q. How did God now punish the wickedness of man ?

A. He destroyed the world of the ungodly by a flood of waters.

Q. Did he destroy the whole human race ?

A. No, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord : "Noah was a just man and walked with God."

Q. How did God preserve him ?

A. He commanded him to make a large vessel called "the ark" after a particular plan.

Q. When this was completed, whom and what did God direct Noah to take with him into the Ark ?

A. His family and some of every living thing of all flesh, with food for him and them.

Q. When the floods ceased, and every living thing on the face of the earth was destroyed, where did the ark rest ?

A. On Mount Ararat.

Q. When the earth was again in a proper state for habitation, what did God direct Noah to do ?

A. To go out of the Ark with his family and all living creatures.

Q. What did Noah immediately on coming out of the Ark ?

A. He raised an Altar, and offered sacrifices, pouring forth thanksgivings to the Almighty for his wonderful deliverance.

Q. How did God manifest his pleasure at this pious conduct of Noah ?

A. He established a Covenant with him.

Q. What was the Covenant ?

A. That he would no more destroy the world by a flood.

Q. What gracious promise did God add ?

A. "That while the Earth remaineth seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease."

Q. What token did God appoint of this Covenant and promise ?

A. He placed the rainbow in the heavens.

Q. How many years did Noah live after the flood ?

A. Three hundred and fifty years.

Q. What were the names of Noah's sons ?

A. Shem, Ham, and Japhet.

Q. When their descendants became so numerous, that they could not live together in one family, what did they do ?

A. They left their great ancestor Noah, and journeyed from the east, till they came to a pleasant and fruitful plain in the land of Shinar.

Q. What did they do there ?

A. Becoming anxious to distinguish themselves they began to build a very high tower.

Q. How did God deal with them ?

A. What they intended to be a monument of their fame, was made a monument of their pride and folly.

Q. In what manner ?

A. God produced divers languages amongst them, so that they could not under-

stand one another.

Q. What was the consequence of this?

A. They were obliged to leave their work unfinished, and settle in different countries.

Q. Of what family was the great Redeemer to come?

A. Of the family of Shem.

Q. Where did they settle?

A. At Ur in Chaldea.

Q. What descendant of Shem was remarkable for his understanding and piety?

A. Abram, the son of Terah.

Q. How did God distinguish him for his piety?

A. He called him out of Ur, when he was seventy five years old, and directed him to go with his wife Sarai, and his nephew Lot to Haran.

Q. Where did he remove afterwards?

A. Into the land of Canaan.

Q. Why did God call him from his country and his Father's house?

A. That he might be called the Father of

a peculiar nation.

Q. What remarkable assurance did God make to him respecting the future Messiah ?

A. "I will make of thee," says he "a great nation, and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

Q. When the families of Abram and Lot were increased, so that it was necessary to part, whither did Lot go ?

A. He went to the plain of Jordan, and pitched his tent near Sodom.

Q. What did God resolve to do to the Inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah for their great wickedness ?

A. He resolved to destroy them.

Q. How did God save Lot from the destruction he brought upon the cities of the plain ?

A. He sent two Angels to warn him of his danger, and to take him from the City.

Q. Whom did they take besides Lot ?

A. His wife and his two daughters.

Q. How did God punish Lot's wife for

her disobedience, in looking back contrary to the Angel's direction?

A. She became a pillar of salt.

Q. What did God promise to Abram, when he was uneasy at being childless?

A. That he should have a son.

Q. What did God do when he renewed his covenant with Abram?

A. He changed his name to Abraham, and that of Sarai to Sarah.

Q. What did he assure him of at the same time?

A. That Sarah should have a Son who should be called Isaac, and "that he would establish his covenant with him and that all the people of the earth should be blessed through him."

Q. How did God make trial of the faith of Abraham?

A. He commanded him to take Isaac his only son, and offer him for a burnt offering on Mount Moriah.

Q. After God had sufficient proof of

Abraham's faith and obedience, how did he interpose to save Isaac ?

A. An angel stayed his hand, and he offered up a ram that was caught in a thicket, instead of his son.

Q. How did God honour Abraham for this signal act of faith and obedience ?

A. He again renewed his promise to him in these words, " In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast obeyed my voice."

Q. Whither did Abraham send to seek a wife for Isaac ?

A. Into Mesopotamia.

Q. Whom did his servant bring from thence ?

A. Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel, the nephew of Abraham.

Q. How many sons had Isaac & Rebekah ?

A. Two, Esau and Jacob.

Q. What happened to Esau the elder brother respecting his birth right ?

A. Coming home hungry from hunting,

he desired some pottage Jacob was preparing for himself, and Jacob asked him his birth-right in exchange, which Esau gave. *Aug. 2.*

Q. How did Jacob a second time supplant his brother Esau ?

A. By deceiving his father, at the suggestion of his mother, into giving him his blessing, instead of giving it to Esau.

Q. How did he deceive his father ?

A. By passing himself off for Esau, and bringing him savoury meat, which Isaac had directed Esau to provide him.

Q. What was the consequence of this deception to Jacob ?

A. Esau was so full of resentment, that he threatened to kill him.

Q. How was he prevented ?

A. By Rebekah persuading Isaac to send him to Padan Aram, to get a wife among his relations.

Q. What happened to Jacob in Canaan, when on his way to Padan Aram ?

A. As he was sleeping in a field with his

head on a stone, he dreamed he saw a great ladder reaching from earth to heaven and the Angels of God ascending and descending; God himself appeared above the ladder and promised to give him the land whereon he lay, and renewed to him the promise that in him all the families of the earth should be blessed.

Q. What did Jacob call this place ?

A. Bethel, which means the house of God.

Q. Whom did Jacob marry ?

A. First, Leah; and then Rachel; daughters of Laban, the brother of Rebekah.

Q. What family had he ?

A. Twelve sons; and one daughter, Dinah.

Q. Which was Jacob's favourite son ?

A. Joseph, because he was the eldest son of his beloved Rachel.

Q. What was the consequence of this preference of Jacob ?

A. It made him the object of envy to his brethren.

Q. In what manner did they show their resentment ?

A. They determined to kill him ; but some merchants passing by at the same time, they sold him to them ; and having stained his clothes in blood, made their father believe he had been devoured by a wild beast.

Q. What became of Joseph after this ?

A. He was carried into Egypt, and sold to Potiphar, a chief officer of Pharaoh.

Q. What happened to him there ?

A. After having been advanced to honour, he was cast into prison, on a false accusation by Potiphar's wife.

Q. How did he get released ?

A. In consequence of interpreting two dreams of Pharaoh, by which he foretold seven years of plenty, which were to be succeeded by seven years of famine.

Q. What did he advise Pharaoh to do ?

A. To gather all the corn of the seven plenteous years, and store it against the seven years of famine.

Q. How did Pharaoh treat Joseph after this ?

A. He raised him to great honour, and appointed him to the office of storing the corn, and gave him power over his whole kingdom.

Q. When the famine spread into the land of Canaan, what did Jacob do?

A. He sent his sons into Egypt to buy corn, keeping his youngest son Benjamin at home.

Q. How did Joseph treat his brethren?

A. He pretended not to know them, and accused them of being spies.

Q. What did he next do?

A. He sent them back for their youngest brother, detaining Simeon.

Q. What occurred to them on their return with Benjamin?

A. Joseph made himself known to them, and directed them to hasten to his father and bring him and his whole family into Egypt.

Q. Where did Jacob and his family settle?

A. In the land of Goshen, where after some time Jacob having blessed his children,

and foretold that the Messiah should descend from Judah, died.

Q. Why were the descendants of Jacob called Israelites ?

A. From the surname of Israel which God had given to Jacob.

Q. Why were they called Hebrews ?

A. From Heber, one of their ancestors.

Q. Why were they afterwards called Jews ?

A. From Judah.

Q. How were the Israelites treated when a new King arose ?

A. They were put in bondage and treated as slaves.

Q. What great act of cruelty did Pharaoh commit ?

A. He ordered all the male children to be destroyed.

Q. Whom did God raise up as a deliverer of the Israelites from bondage ?

A. Moses, the son of a Hebrew woman named Jochebed.

Q. How was he saved from the slaughter ?

A. His mother, after having hid him for three months, had him placed in a basket on the banks of the Nile, near the place where the King's daughter came to wash.

Q. What happened to him there?

A. She was so affected by the sight, that she ordered him to be preserved.

Q. What does the word Moses mean?

A. Saved out of the water.

Q. How did God communicate to Moses his design of making him the deliverer of his brethren?

Q. Whilst feeding his flocks he saw a bush flaming with fire, from which a voice issued directing him to go to Pharaoh, that he might lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

Q. What encouragement did God give him?

A. He promised to be with him and give him power to work miracles for their deliverance and appointed Aaron his brother to assist him.

Q. What was the result of their applica-

tion to Pharaoh ?

A. He refused to let them go.

Q. What was the consequence of his repeated refusals ?

A. God sent grievous plagues upon Egypt.

Q. What was the last plague that induced Pharaoh to let them go ?

A. All the first-born of the Egyptians were killed in one night.

Q. What great Jewish festival was instituted at this time ?

A. The Passover ; because when God destroyed the first-born of the Egyptians, he passed over the Israelites.

Q. What did Pharaoh do, when the Israelites were gone ?

A. His heart was again hardened, and he repented that he had let them go; and therefore pursued them with a great army to bring them back.

Q. How did God protect his people ?

A. He went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, and by night a pillar of fire to

give them light.

Q. What miracle was wrought by God, through Moses, when they came to the Red Sea ?

A. Moses stretched his hand over the sea, and immediately the waters divided, so that they walked through in safety on dry land.

Q. What became of Pharaoh and his host ?

A. When they got to the middle of the sea, the waters returned and overwhelmed them, so that not one of them was left.

Q. Where had the Israelites pitched their camps, when God delivered the ten commandments ?

A. Before Mount Sinai.

Q. What is the first commandment ?

A. Thou shalt have none other Gods but me.

Q. What does this teach ?

A. That there is but one God, and that we are to worship him alone, and have him for our God.

Q. What is the second commandment?

A. Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, and visit the sins of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and shew mercy unto thousands in them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Q. What does this teach?

A. That we are not to worship God in an unworthy manner, by bowing down to any picture, or image, or making any representation of him.

Q. What is the third?

A. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless, that taketh his name in vain.

Q. What does this forbid?

A. All oaths; not only perjury, but common cursing and swearing, and using the name of God on trifling occasions, and without becoming seriousness and reverence.

Q. What is the fourth commandment?

A. Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all that thou hast to do: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shalt do no manner of work; thou and thy son, and thy daughter, thy man-servant, and thy maid-servant, thy cattle, and the stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it.

Q. What does this direct?

A. That we rest from all our labours, and worldly business on the Sabbath day, and keep it holy by reading and meditation, by prayer, public and private.

Q. What is the fifth commandment ?

A. Honour thy father and thy mother ; that thy days may be long in the land, which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Q. What does this require ?

A. That we should honour and obey, love and comfort our parents, and behave with proper respect to all who have a lawful authority over us.

Q. What is the sixth ?

A. Thou shalt do no murder.

Q. What does this require ?

A. That we should not wilfully take the life of any person ; nor do any kind of hurt to others ; nor bear any malice or hatred in our hearts : but study on the contrary to live peaceably with all men.

Q. What is the seventh ?

A. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Q. What does this require ?

A. That we should keep ourselves in temperance, soberness and chastity, avoiding all indecencies of behaviour, and whatever

has a tendency to corrupt the mind.

Q. What is the eighth?

A. Thou shalt not steal.

Q. What does this require?

A. That we should not deprive any person of his right and property, either by force or fraud; but should be true and just in all our dealings, and give to every man his due.

Q. What is the ninth?

A. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Q. What does this require?

A. That we should not injure the reputation of others, either by false evidence in a court of justice, or by slander, backbiting, or tale bearing, in common conversation.

Q. What is the tenth commandment?

A. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his servant, nor his maid, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is his.

Q. What does this forbid?

A. All unlawful wishes or unjust desires;

enjoining us to be content with our own state and circumstances.

Q. How were these commandments delivered to Moses?

A. They were delivered by God on Mount Sinai, written on two tables of stone.

Q. How many years were the Israelites in the wilderness?

A. Forty years.

Q. How old was Moses when he died?

A. One hundred and twenty years.

Q. Whom did God appoint to succeed Moses, and conduct the Israelites to the land of Canaan?

A. Joshua.

Q. What was the first place Joshua besieged and took, on entering Canaan?

A. Jericho.

Q. What miracle was performed on this occasion?

A. After the priests had borne the Ark of the Covenant round the city once a day for seven days, the wall of it suddenly fell

flat to the ground.

Q. After the Canaanites were almost wholly subdued, what did Joshua apply himself to?

A. The division of the land.

Q. How was the land divided?

A. Each tribe had a possession by lot, except the tribe of Levi.

Q. Why was the tribe of Levi excepted?

A. Because being chosen by God to be priests and ministers, to preserve knowledge and preach the law, they were to be intermixed with other tribes, and to be supported by tithes, and the offerings of the altar.

Q. How many years did Joshua govern the Israelites?

A. Seventeen years.

Q. How were they governed after Joshua's death?

A. By Judges until the time of Samuel.

Q. When the elders of Israel requested him to alter their form of government, and appoint a King over them, who was the first King?

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A. Saul.

Q. Who was the next?

A. David.

Q. Who succeeded David?

A. Solomon.

Q. What great work did Solomon perform?

A. He built a temple to the Lord, the most beautiful and magnificent edifice in the world.

Q. Who succeeded Solomon?

A. His son Rehoboam, but ten tribes under him revolted, and made Jeroboam their King.

Q. Which two tribes adhered to Rehoboam?

A. Judah and Benjamin.

Q. After this division, how were they designated?

A. One was called the kingdom of Israel the other the kingdom of Judah.

Q. In whose time was the government of Israel totally destroyed?

A. In the time of Hosea.

Q. Who carried the Israelites into captivity?

A. The King of Assyria.

Q. In whose reign was the kingdom of Judah destroyed?

A. In the reign of Zedekiah.

Q. Where did the King of Assyria carry the King and people?

A. To Babylon.

Q. In whose reign were the Jews allowed to return to Jerusalem?

A. In the reign of Cyrus according to the prediction of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Q. How long had they been in captivity?

A. Seventy years.

Q. At what time does the Scripture history of the Jews end?

A. About four hundred and thirty years before Christ.

Q. From what sources do we get the remaining particulars of the Jewish History, to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans?

A. From uninspired writers, from the Maccabees, and from Josephus.

OF THE PROPHECIES

RELATING TO CHRIST,

The Fulfilment of which prove him to be the true Messiah.

*Question.***W**HAT is a prophecy?

A. A declaration of some future event, which it is impossible for man to know; and therefore must come from God.

Q. In what light are we to consider the accomplishment of the prophecies concerning Christ.

A. As a mark by which he should be known, and a proof of his divine mission.

Q. Were all the prophecies concerning Christ fulfilled in him?

A. The history of his life and death in the New Testament agrees in every particular with these prophecies in the Old Testament.

Q. What were the prophecies concerning Christ's family, and the place and manner of his birth ?

A. It was foretold, that the Messiah was to be born of a Virgin, of the tribe of Judah, of the house of David, and in the town of Bethlehem ; all which, we are informed by the Evangelists, were fulfilled strictly in Jesus Christ.

Q. What did the prophet Haggai foretell as to the time of his coming ?

A. He foretold that he would come while the second temple was standing.

Q. How was this fulfilled in Jesus Christ ?

A. The first or Solomon's temple had been destroyed, and Christ came into the world after the second temple had been built by Zerubbabel.

Q. How was this prophecy of Zechariah fulfilled, "They weighed for my price thirty

pieces of silver."?

A. We read in St. Matthew, that Judas sold Jesus for that very sum.

Q. It is said in the Psalms, "They pierced my hands and my feet." How was this fulfilled?

A. We read in the Gospel that he was crucified, and that after his resurrection he shewed to his disciples "the print of the nails" in his hands and feet, with which he had been fastened to the Cross.

Q. How was he numbered with the transgressors, according to the prophecy of Isaiah?

A. We read in the Gospel, that he was crucified between two thieves.

Q. Are there any other prophecies concerning Christ?

A. Yes, a great many, and some foretelling the minutest particulars relating to his crucifixion, even to the very words that should be made use of, when he was hanging on the cross; all which were most literally and exactly fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Q. As Christ then appeared exactly at the time appointed by the Prophets, and as the various marks and characters of him are found so completely to agree, and unite in him alone, and in no other person, what is the only conclusion that we can draw, or in other words, what are we constrained to believe ?

A. That he was the true Messiah, which was to come into the world.

Q. What then are we to think of the obstinacy of the Jews, who rejected him, and who still reject him to this day as the Messiah ?

A. That God for their great wickedness blinded their eyes, and that this their very blindness, and their rejection of him is a direct fulfilment of prophecies concerning them.

THE
MIRACLES OF CHRIST

A further Proof of his being

THE TRUE MESSIAH,

AND THE

SON OF GOD.

Question.

FROM what other source have we proofs of the divine power of Christ?

A. From his miracles.

Q. What is a miracle?

A. An action which is above the natural power of man to perform, and cannot be accounted for from natural causes, and must therefore be done by the immediate assistance of him, to whom nature herself owes her being.

Q. What miracles of this description were performed by Jesus Christ?

A. Looking into the Gospel we find him speaking as the Lord of Nature, and having all the powers of nature at his command ; at his word the sick were immediately restored to health, the blind received their sight, the lame were made to walk, the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak, the lepers were cleansed, the stormy wind and raging sea were calmed, and the dead were raised to life again.

Q. What strong and unanswerable argument arises from all this to prove that Jesus Christ was the true Messiah ?

A. God would not have recommended the doctrines of the Gospel by his immediate interposition, he would not by such a special voice have borne witness to Christ, and called upon all men to believe and obey him, if he had not been the Messiah.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE
LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST.

Question.

WHAT was the state of the Jews, at the time Jesus Christ was born?

A. They were in subjection to the Romans, but enjoyed the free exercise of their religion, and followed their own laws and customs.

Q. What was the general feeling, about the time Jesus Christ appeared, respecting his coming?

A. There was a confident expectation of the Messiah, not only among the Jews, but also among the heathen.

Q. Who was the Roman emperor when Christ was born?

A. Augustus.

Q. Where was he born?

A. In Bethlehem of Judah, according to the prediction.

Q. What circumstance brought Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem previously to Christ's birth?

A. Augustus had issued a decree that all the land should be enrolled and registered, that a regular taxation might be made; and it was necessary that every one should go to his own city.

Q. How came Bethlehem to be the city, to which Joseph and Mary belonged?

A. Because they were of the tribe of Judah, and family of David, as it had been predicted.

Q. Where was Christ born?

A. In a stable, and his mother laid him in a manger.

Q. Why was this the case?

A. Because from the great concourse of people, there was no room for them in the Inn.

Q. In what supernatural manner was the important event of Christ's birth announced?

A. It was announced by an Angel from heaven to shepherds, who were watching over their flocks by night; and a multitude of the heavenly host broke out into the triumphant hymn, "Glory be to God in the highest, on earth peace, good-will towards men."

Q. When he was eight days old, and was circumcised according to the rites of the Jewish Church, what name was given him?

A. The name of Jesus, according to the direction of the angel that appeared to Joseph.

Q. What is the meaning of the word Jesus?

A. A saviour.

Q. How was the birth of Christ made known to some wise men in the East?

A. By the appearance of a bright and

unusual star in the heavens; which they understood as an intimation that the promised messiah was born.

Q. What did these wise men do?

A. They immediately left their country, and under the particular guidance of this star, went first to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem.

Q. What did Herod do, when he heard that the wise men openly called the newborn infant the King of the Jews?

A. He made a bloody massacre of all the infants in the city of Bethlehem.

Q. By what miraculous means was the child Jesus saved from the general massacre?

A. Joseph was secretly directed by God to take the young child and his mother into Egypt, before the bloody edict was issued.

Q. When did Jesus first appear at Jerusalem?

A. When he was twelve years old.

Q. On what occasion was this?

A. Joseph and Mary went yearly to Jerusalem to attend the feast of the Passover, and

it was on one of these occasions that they took Jesus with them.

Q. What particular occurrence took place on their leaving Jerusalem ?

A. When on their return they missed Jesus, they went back again to Jerusalem, and found him in the temple, sitting with the Doctors, hearing them and asking them questions.

Q. How old was Jesus when he entered on his ministry ?

A. Thirty years.

Q. What took place previously to his entering his ministry ?

A. He was baptized by John in the river Jordan.

Q. What miraculous circumstance attended his baptism ?

A. The spirit of God descended on him after the manner of a dove, and a voice issued from Heaven saying, "this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

Q. What did Christ do after his baptism ?

A. He retired to a solitary wilderness, to prepare himself by meditation and prayer for the important office he came into the world to execute.

Q. What happened to him on this occasion ?

A. He was assailed with most powerful temptations by the Devil.

Q. What was the result of these temptations ?

A. He stood firm to virtue, he rejected every temptation, and nobly triumphed over the seducer and destroyer of mankind.

Q. How did Christ repel the various assaults of the tempter ?

A. By the word of God.

Q. What should this suggest to us ?

A. That we should read, study, and treasure the word of God up in the memory and the heart, that we may readily apply it on all occasions.

Q. After Jesus had been to Jerusalem to worship at the feast of the Passover, where

next did he go?

A. He passed through Samaria and Galilee, preaching the word of the kingdom of God, and spreading the blessings of health and peace all around him.

Q. What method did Christ adopt to diffuse the light of the Gospel throughout the world, and thereby offer salvation to all mankind.

A. He chose twelve persons out of his disciples whom he called Apostles, to be witnesses and founders of his Church.

Q. What is the meaning of the word Apostle?

A. It is derived from a Greek word signifying TO SEND and may therefore mean special messengers or ambassadors.

Q. How were his doctrines and ministry received by the Scribes and Pharisees?

A. Their prejudices were awakened; and a spirit of opposition was stirred up, which continually increased as his fame increased.

Q. What steps did they take in consequence?

A. They held a solemn debate concerning the most effectual means to apprehend him and put him to death.

Q. What put an end to their doubts on this point?

A. Judas, one of the apostles, agreed to betray him into their hands for a sum of money.

Q. When they had secured him by these means, what did they do with him?

A. They brought him before the Sanhedrim, or great council of the nation.

Q. With what was he there charged?

A. With blasphemy, for calling himself the Son of God, and assuming the title of Messiah.

Q. What answer did he make?

A. He made an open confession of the truth.

Q. How did the Jews then proceed?

A. The next morning they led him away to Pilate, the Roman governor, to whom the power of life and death then belonged.

Q. What was the conduct of Pilate?

A. Knowing that for envy they had delivered him, and being convinced of his innocence, he tried several expedients to release him.

Q. What was the conduct of the Jews then?

A. They pressed the more for sentence against him, crying out "Crucify him, crucify him."

Q. How did Pilate act?

A. Fearing that disturbance and tumult would arise, if he did not hearken to the Jews, he yielded to their importunity.

Q. What method did he take to show his own opinion on the subject?

A. He took water, and having washed his hands before the multitude, said "I am innocent of the blood of this just person."

Q. What did the people answer?

A. "His blood be upon us and on our children." And so it is to this very day: for though it was for the sins of the whole world

his blood was shed; yet their crime was so exceeding great, that it brought upon them the destruction of their temple, their city, their nation, and themselves.

Q. What should the punishment of this unhappy people teach us?

A. The sad effects of malice and envy.

Q. How was Christ treated previously to his crucifixion?

A. With every species of cruelty and indignity, the malice of man could invent.

Q. What awful events took place after Christ had said "It is finished," and gave up the ghost?

A. The earth shook, the veil of the temple was rent in twain, and many that were in their graves rose from the dead.

Q. What unanswerable proof did Christ give that he was the Son of God?

A. He foretold that he should rise again from the dead the third day: and accordingly he did rise again on the third day, and showed himself alive to his disciples by many *infallible* proofs.

Q. Of what does this assure us?

A. Of our own resurrection.

Q. What became of Christ after his resurrection?

A. Forty days after his resurrection, having given full directions to his apostles for the government and ministry of his church, he visibly, and in the presence of them all, ascended into heaven, and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Q. What did Christ promise them before his Ascension?

A. That he would send the Holy Ghost the Comforter, who should guide them to all truth.

Q. Who is the Holy Ghost?

A. The third person in the blessed Trinity.

Q. How was this promise fulfilled?

A. Ten days after his Ascension, they were all with one accord in one place on the day of Pentecost, when they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.

Q. With what powers did the Holy Ghost endue them?

A. With the knowledge of all languages.

Q. For what reason was this gift of the Holy Ghost conferred upon them?

A. To enable them to preach the Gospel, as their master had directed them, to all the world.

Q. Where does Christ sit in heaven?

A. At the right hand of God.

Q. Why does he sit at the right hand of God?

A. To be the mediator between God and man.

ON THE SACRAMENTS.

Question.

WHAT rite did Christ ordain in his Church, and entrust the administration of to his Apostles, and through them to all future Ministers of the Gospel duly appointed ?

A. The two sacraments, Baptism, and the Supper of the Lord.

Q. What is a Sacrament ?

A. An outward and visible sign of an *inward and spiritual grace.*

Q. What is the outward sign of Baptism ?

A. Washing or sprinkling the body with water, "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost."

Q. Of what is water the memorial?

A. Of that purity of mind and manners, which christians are bound to observe.

Q. Into what are persons admitted by this sacrament of Baptism?

A. Into a profession of the Christian faith.

Q. To what does it bind those that are baptized?

A. To live suitably to that profession.

Q. How does the sacrament bind them so to do?

A. Therein are they dedicated to the service and worship of God the Father, who created them; to the obedience and imitation of Christ the Son, who redeemed them; and to the doctrine and guidance of the Holy Ghost, who sanctifies them.

Q. To what do those that are baptized become entitled by the christian covenant?

A. God has promised on his part certain benefits and privileges.

Q. What are those?

A. They are made Members of Christ, children of God, and heirs of the kingdom of Heaven.

Q. And what are the conditions on man's part in this covenant?

A. To renounce all wickedness, to believe what God has taught in his Holy Word, and to keep his Commandments.

Q. In what manner has the Church provided for Infants, as it is plain they cannot promise these things themselves?

A. The Church provides that sureties, that is, god-fathers and god-mothers, should enter into this covenant in their name and on their behalf.

Q. And is this covenant equally binding on them, when they are of a proper age to understand it, and take the engagement upon themselves?

A. The Church teaches so; and has

therefore provided another rite, by which Christians take this vow on themselves, when of a proper age to understand it.

Q. What rite is that ?

A. Confirmation; in which rite the promises made by the sureties for infants at their baptism are publicly ratified, and taken upon themselves, in the presence of the Church, and before the Bishop.

Q. For what reason was the other sacrament of the Lord's Supper instituted ?

A. For the continual remembrance of the death of Christ, and of the benefits vouchsafed to his Church thereby.

Q. What are the outward signs of this sacrament ?

A. Bread, which spiritually represents the body of Christ, given for man; and wine, which spiritually represents the blood of Christ, shed for man.

Q. Can a man neglect this sacrament without hazard of his salvation ?

A. No: "Do this in remembrance of

me," is as clear a command as any other in the New Testament.

Q. What are the requisite qualifications for a worthy partaker of this sacrament ?

A. Repentance of our past sins, firm resolutions of future amendment, and being in perfect charity with all men.

FINIS.





